

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

VLR-10/21/75 NRHP-4/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Belle Aire

(VHLC File # 128-52)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Route 11; .1 mile west of Barnhardt Creek; .2 mile west of intersection of Route 11 and Route 684.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

ROANOKE  
Salem

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Roanoke (IN CITY)

CODE

161

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whitney

STREET & NUMBER

1320 Belle Aire Circle

CITY, TOWN

Roanoke

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Roanoke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)**

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (see Continuation Sheet #1)

DATE

1958

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia Code: 51

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belle Aire is set on a wooded knoll above Lee Highway between Roanoke and Salem. The imposing, two-story, double-fronted, L-shaped house is built of brick laid in a variety of bonds. The main, or south, façade is three bays long and is an early example of all-stretcher bond. Stuccoed Doric pilasters mark the corners; fixed to the top of the pilasters are original metal downspouts with applied diamond ornaments. The first- and second-floor frontispieces, window frames, and many other details are adapted from Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (1830). Both frontispieces are similar to the one illustrated in Benjamin's Plate 28, "Design for a Front Door Case," but with the blocking course deleted and transom lights, more elaborately sculpted symmetrical moldings, and bull's-eye paterae added. The window lintels are derived from Plate 31, "Design for a Window," to which the builder, Benjamin Deyerle, added an additional symmetrically molded element with paterae. The principal feature of this facade is the two-story pedimented portico, which is supported against the house by colossal stuccoed pilasters and at the front by four fluted Doric columns at each level, those on the second floor being somewhat more delicately proportioned than those on the first.

The secondary (west) façade is laid in Flemish bond and has corner pilasters and window lintels similar to those on the south front. Here a one-story porch with paneled pilasters, a dentil cornice, and a low hipped roof has been closed in to create two small rooms off the back stair hall.

The ends and rear walls of the building are laid in four- and five-course American bond. Six-over-six sash are used throughout the house, and a full entablature is carried around the eaves of the low hipped roof which is covered with standing-seam sheet metal. There are three tall interior end chimneys.

The plan of Belle Aire is a common one, consisting of a single-pile, central-passage main block with an open-well stair in the passage. Set off from the main block by a secondary passage with a straight-run stair is the dining room in the ell. The principal stair consists of a plain molded banister and rectangular balusters scrolled around the newel which takes the form of a diminutive fluted Doric column. Paneled wainscoting, used throughout the house, is carried up both the stairs.

The east parlor mantel is adapted from Benjamin's Plate 51, "Chimney Piece," with a cornice and a symmetrically molded surround more elaborate than those Benjamin illustrates and with a single horizontal panel substituted for Benjamin's fret-work frieze. A simplified version of this mantel is used in the dining room. Bold architrave blocks reminiscent of an earlier style of mantel are added to emphasize the fluted Doric colonettes, but the frieze panel and molded surround of the parlor mantel are omitted.

In the west parlor is a mantel freely adapted from Plate 50, "Chimney Piece," of The Practical House Carpenter. Benjamin's frieze has been shortened to allow the insertion of an architrave element under it, and a central tablet and moldings similar to those used in Valley mantels of the 1820s and 1830s have been added.

DTU

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1849                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Benjamin Deyerle

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Belle Aire, in Roanoke County between Salem and Roanoke, is an outstanding Greek Revival house which illustrates the popularity of builders' guides in the mid-nineteenth century as well as the uses to which an imaginative local craftsman could put them.

The house was built in 1849 by Benjamin Deyerle (1806-1883), who probably employed one Gustavus Sedon as his carpenter. Deyerle, like other builders of his time and region, was an entrepreneur of broad-ranging interests. In addition to being a contractor and brick mason, he kept a grist mill, a still, and a store. Belle Aire is the second of his known large houses, and like most of them was built in the Greek Revival style. Though his work shows at least a passing knowledge of the handbooks of Edward Shaw and Minard Lafever, Deyerle clearly relied most heavily on the publications of Asher Benjamin (1773-1845), a New England architect and popularizer of new styles. Many of Deyerle's embellishments can be traced directly to details in Benjamin's books, notably The Practical House Carpenter of 1830. In no case, however, does he merely copy Benjamin's design; he always adds some touch of his own--either a variant or an element from another handbook plate or, at times, some customary local element such as the tablets and moldings of the west parlor mantel at Belle Aire, which recall Valley work of the 1820s and 1830s.

Belle Aire was built for Madison Pitzer (1799-1861), a large landowner in the Salem area. In 1896 it was sold by his heirs to Mary L. Brown and remained in the possession of her family for about thirty years. A brief period of ownership by a bank was followed by the purchase of Belle Aire by Roger DuBose in 1935. DuBose sold it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Whitney in 1957.

DTU

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Barnes, Raymond, "Madison Pitzer Home 'Belair' (sic) One of Valley's Finest," Roanoke World-News, Roanoke, Va., March 23, 1963.
- Benjamin, Asher. The Practical House Carpenter, 1830.
- Cheek, Elizabeth, "Benjamin Deyerle, Builder, 1806-1883," unpublished undergraduate thesis, Hollins College, 1971.
- Fulghum, Jim, "Belair Recalls Old Plantation Days," Salem Times Register, Salem, Va., 1970.
- Willett, Leslie V., "Bell-Air," unpublished undergraduate paper, Hollins College, 1972.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>17</u>	<u>587090</u>	<u>41124360</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

September 1975

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-~~786~~-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*JRF (S)*

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

*OCT 21 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Belle Aire

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Salem X VICINITY OF COUNTY Roanoke STATE Virginia

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO.  
Exterior View from south 1 of 1

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

DATE ENTERED
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Belle Aire

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Salem X VICINITY OF COUNTY Roanoke STATE Virginia

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE USGS 7½' quadrangle, Salem, Virginia

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1963 (PR1968)

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
  2. NORTH ARROW
  3. UTM REFERENCES

